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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01
AID-05 /127 W
----------125680 061454Z /46
P R 061407Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7542
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USINT HAVANA
USING BAGHDAD
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1054

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN FORCES RECAPTURE STRATEGIC OGADEN TOWN OF
JIJIGA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1025

1. FRENCH MILATT WAS INFORMED MARCH 5 BY SOVIET MILATT

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THAT JIJIGA HAD BEEN RECAPTURED THAT MORNING. SOVIET ALSO CONFIRMED THAT KARA MARA PASS HAD FALLEN TO ETHIOPIANS. FRENCH MILATT BELIEVED THAT MAJOR THRUST TOWARD JIJIGA WAS FROM NNW AND WAS COMBINED ETHIOPIAN-CUBAN OPERATION. FRENCH MILATT FURTHER STATED THAT ETHIOPIANS TOOK HEAVY CASUALTIES. (THIS WAS REFLECTED IN ORIGINAL ETHIOPIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAPTURE OF JIJIGA CALLING ON BROAD MASSES TO BE PREPARED FOR FURTHER RECRUITMENT OF MILITIA AND DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLOOD AND REVOLUTIONARY EQUIPMENT.) FRENCH MILATT PERSONALLY THOUGHT ETHIOPIANS WOULD NOT CROSS SOMALI FRONTIER AND WOULD TURN SOUTH TOWARD GODE. HE ALSO BELIEVED REOPENING OF RAILROAD WOULD BE PRIORITY MILITARY OBJECTIVE.

2. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE IN ADDIS IS ONE OF EUPHORIA FOLLOWING MOST SIGNIFICANT ETHIOPIAN VICTORY IN OGADEN SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR. WITH JIJIGA RECAPTURED, IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE IN WHICH DIRECTION ETHIOPIANS PRESS THEIR CURRENT ADVANTAGE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO CROSS SOMALIA'S FRONTIER. LARGE PUBLIC RALLY HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8 IN ADDIS ABABA TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. DIRG CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAD ALSO PLANNED TO DELIVER SPEECH AT RALLY. UNDOUBTEDLY, HE WILL USE OCCASION TO EXTOLL ETHIOPIAN VICTORY AT JIJIGA.
MATHERON
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS01054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0814
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803105/aaaadkqh.tel
Line Count: 94
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 1025
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3112572
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN FORCES RECAPTURE STRATEGIC OGADEN TOWN OF JIJIGA
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, ET, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/143d7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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